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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/531,958	03/21/2000	Tadahiro Ohmi	862.C1870	6875	
5514 7	7590 02/14/2002				
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO			EXAMINER		
30 ROCKEFE NEW YORK,		 		RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2828	-	
			DATE MAILED: 02/14/2002	2	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application	on No.	Applicant(s)		
* Office A - 4' O	09/531,95	58	OHMI ET AL.		
Office Action Summary	Examiner	,	Art Unit		
		Rodriguez	2828		
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD IN THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUN. - Extensions of time may be available under the provision after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this common that period for reply specified above is less than thirty (comparison of the maximum such period for reply in the set of extended period for reply and the provided period for reply in the set of extended period for reply and period for reply in the set of extended period for reply and period period for reply in the set of extended period for	IICATION. Is of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no even Imunication. Imunication is a reply within the state Istatutory period will apply and w Ily will, by statute, cause the app	ent, however, may a reply be t utory minimum of thirty (30) da ill expire SIX (6) MONTHS froi lication to become ABANDON	imely filed ays will be considered timely. m the mailing date of this communication. IED (35 U.S.C. § 133).		
1) Responsive to communication(s) f	filed on				
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL .	2b)⊠ This action is	non-final.			
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims					
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are pending in the					
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5)⊠ Claim(s) <u>8,11,13 and 15</u> is/are allowed.					
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1,10,12,14 and 16-18</u> is/are rejected.					
7)⊠ Claim(s) <u>2-5 and 7</u> is/are objected to.					
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.					
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on <u>21 March 2000</u> is/are: a) accepted or b) dolpected to by the Examiner.					
Applicant may not request that any of	bjection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance.	See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) □ approved b) □ disapproved by the Examiner.					
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.					
12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120					
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).					
a)⊠ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:					
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.					
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No					
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).					
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.					
Attachment(s) Primary Examiner					
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449)	•		ary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) al Patent Application (PTO-152)		

Application/Control Number: 09/531,958

Art Unit: 2828

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figure 9 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear as to "shifted to that" in the claim language intends to convey.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily

Application/Control Number: 09/531,958

Art Unit: 2828

published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1,10,12,14,16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmi et al (PN 6,331,994).

In figure 18C and 20A Ohmi et al illustrates a gap or slit formed along a lengthwise direction, where electromagnetic waves generate plasma light, as described in column 16 lines 5-23. As disclosed throughout the reference inert gas is supplied orthogonal to the direction of light generation. Figure 26 illustrates the exposure apparatus irradiating the reticle and having a wafer, as described in column 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior arts alone or in combination discloses the claimed laser system having the shielding structure as in dependent claim 2 or having the chambers as disclosed in dependent claim 5 or having the opening and gap as disclosed in dependent claim 7.

Claims 8,11,13,15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior arts alone or in combination discloses the claimed laser system having the structural combination of independent claim 8, where a waveguide has a pair of

Application/Control Number: 09/531,958

Art Unit: 2828

chambers, which are internally supplied with gas, the waveguide having a slit-shape

gap in a lengthwise direction allowing the electromagnetic wave to propagate from one

Page 4

chamber to the other and causing plasma light over the entire area along the lengthwise

direction of the gap.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

be directed to Armando Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-6218. The examiner can

normally be reached on 10-hour day / M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul

Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application

or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7721 for After

Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be

directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-4881.

Armando Rodriguez

Examiner

Art Unit 2828

Paul Ip

Supervisor

Art Unit 2828

AR/PI

February 10, 2002